

Waste Diversion Infrastructure Recommendations Discussion

March 19, 2018

Talking Points

- **Improve food donation infrastructure.**
 - Obtain better data on existing infrastructure and gaps.
 - Consider financial incentives to expand infrastructure (e.g. increase refrigerated storage capacity; improve transportation networks; etc.).
 - Increase outreach and education on food donation opportunities.
 - Increase education on and consistent implementation of public health regulations regarding food donation.
 - Consider whether enhancements to existing liability protections and tax credits for donors are needed to improve participation in food donation programs.
- **Obtain status of the current infrastructure and practices for the use of food scraps as animal feed to better assess needs and challenges. – Discuss in future meeting**
 - Coordinate with MDA, MFB, haulers, and other agriculture groups to learn about current practices.
- **Consider whether the existing disposal ban on yard trimmings should be strengthened.**
 - Capacity largely already exists to accommodate the remaining yard trimmings, but is an expansion of the ban necessary given that most yard trimmings are already recycled (i.e. is this where we should target efforts?)
- **Encourage expanded composting capacity in underserved areas of the State.**
 - Consider financial incentives for additional processing and collection capacity.
 - Provide siting assistance.
 - Integrate composting and anaerobic digestion into community economic development initiatives.
 - Assist operators in upgrading existing yard trimmings composting facilities to process source separated food scraps.
- **Increase anaerobic digestion capacity.**
 - Identify markets for digestate.
 - Clarify regulatory requirements.
 - Explore the possibility of co-digestion at wastewater treatment plants.
- **Build small-scale composting infrastructure where larger facilities do not exist or are not economically feasible.**
 - Provide composting training and outreach on:
 - On-site residential (backyard) composting
 - Composting at community gardens and urban farms
 - On-farm composting
 - Composting on site at LFSGs